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AGAWAM

ADVERTISER NEWS

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HIGH SCHOOL

Bids are in: Field project to cost \$7.95M

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

Councilors split on baseball lights, bonding impact

City councilors are split on two major decisions due Monday on the Agawam High School athletic facility project.

At a subcommittee meeting Dec. 14, councilors questioned the need for lighting on the baseball and softball fields, and wor-

ried that the additional borrowing the project will require could jeopardize plans to build a new early childhood center.

The fields project, which includes a new running track, artificial turf multi-purpose field and locker rooms, has already been de-

layed once, when bids came back higher than expected this summer. The low price in the second round of bids, opened this week, was \$7,950,000 from Lupachino & Sullivan Inc. of Bloomfield, Conn., Chief Procurement Officer Jennifer Bonfiglio said.

The City Council previously authorized borrowing up to \$6,750,000 for the project, and Mayor Richard Cohen is requesting \$1,435,000 in additional funds to cover the entire bid. Some of that money will be offset by the \$1,035,000 in Community Preser-

vation Act Funds that have been authorized for the project.

Lupachino & Sullivan also submitted an alternate bid with an additional \$388,000 to add lights to the varsity baseball and softball fields.

The Community Relations and Finance subcommittees met

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Senior Kiersten Franklin uses a selfie stick to take a photo of herself in front of her work at the Agawam High School Winter Arts Festival on the evening of Dec. 9.



Marino Cipriani strikes the same pose as Uncle Sam in the painting the senior created for his Arts Honors II class. TURLEY PUBLICATION PHOTOS BY MIKE LYDICK

Portraits of the artists

PUBLIC SAFETY

UTV to aid Police, Fire depts. in remote areas

By Gregory A. Scibelli
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There is a new addition to the fleet of rescue vehicles in town.

Last Wednesday afternoon, Agawam Fire Chief Alan Sirois was joined by Deputy Fire Chief B.J. Calvi, Police Chief Eric Gillis and Mayor Richard Cohen as he unveiled a Utility Terrain Vehicle to help first responders reach narrow-access and remote areas in town.

Sirois said with an increase lately in the use of hiking trails and nature areas in town, a need was identified for a vehicle that could access these areas so victims of accidents or other issues could be transported out with more ease, less personnel, and less risk of further harm to both the victim and rescuers.

In July, 17-year-old Antonio Bruno fell more than 60 feet in a rock quarry located on the Agawam-Southwick town line. It required the efforts of both towns'



Police Chief Eric Gillis takes Mayor Richard Cohen for a ride in the new UTV. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

fire departments to recover Bruno, and Sirois said a UTV would have been ideal in an incident like that.

"In areas like that, you cannot get a normal rescue vehicle there," said Sirois. "This vehicle will allow to have better access."

Sirois said in addition to the

rock quarry, the UTV would also be useful in responding to emergencies in places like School Street Park and Robinson State Park. It will be housed at Fire Station 2, which is located in Feeding Hills on Springfield Street.

VEHICLE | page 8

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

New year, old test

Computer-based tests coming, but Agawam keeps MCAS for 2016

By Mike Lydick
aan@turley.com

Agawam students will continue to mark their test materials with pencils next year, after the School Committee again rejected a move to the computerized PARCC exam in a unanimous vote last week.

The board voted to continue administering the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System for one more year. MCAS has been used in Massachusetts schools since 1998, but is set to be replaced in 2017 with a computerized test known as MCAS 2.0.

School Superintendent William Sapelli acknowledged at the Dec. 8 school board meeting that Agawam students could be placed at a disadvantage when

computer-based testing is adopted statewide, if Agawam doesn't begin administering new-style tests as soon as possible. Districts had the option of adopting PARCC, the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers test, last year and again this year.

"By spring 2017, there will no longer be the option of taking MCAS or PARCC," said Sapelli. "If, in fact, students are going to be mandated to take an assessment — whatever it's called or whatever format it comes in, or whether it's MCAS, MCAS Plus, MCAS 2.0, MCAS 3.0, PARCC Plus — it will be a test generated via a computer."

In November the state Board of Education voted to replace

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Community Newspapers
Alive & Well!

Agawam Advertiser News Obituary Policy

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place. The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$50, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

Agawam High School Counseling bulletin

College acceptances
Daphne Gauthier — Elms College, University of New Haven; Robert Johnston — American International College; Victoria Sutherland — University of New England.

Special interest programs
Jr. Tech Inc., a Massachusetts-based non-profit that has delivered experiential STEM education programs in Massachusetts for the past 10 years, is offering Girls STEM Summit on Sunday, April 10, at Regis College in Weston. The focus is on girls in grades 8-12 who are interested in or curious about careers in the STEM fields. The registration fee is \$55 per student and includes all speakers, hands-on sessions, lunch and snacks, giveaways and a take home gift. Call 617-512-1794 with any questions.

Springfield Technical Community College is again offering the chance for current juniors and seniors to take up to one free course in the spring and summer semesters through the College Now program. This is a great way to earn college credits while in high school while trying courses that may be helpful in exploring a potential career interest. See your counselor for details.

Elms College is offering an Advanced Placement program which allows eligible students to enroll in one three-credit course in the spring semester and receive full college transfer credit to the Elms or another academic institution of their choice. While tuition is waived, students will pay a \$20 registration fee and \$50 technology fee. Registration for the spring semester is Jan. 20. Those interested should see their counselor for more information.

The railroad industry is thriving and railroad companies are looking for qualified workers to fill a variety of positions. The Railroad Engineering Technology Associate Degree program at Gateway Community College (New Haven, Conn.) prepares students for such careers. Contact Rick Halkyard at 203-285-2311 for more information.

Scholarship information
Students should see their counselor or visit the websites for more information or an application: the Red Pine Scholarship; the Yawkey Scholars Program; the Charitable and Educational Trust of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts; the Phillips Scholarship Fund; the Michael Yaskick ADHD Scholarships by Shire; Big Y Scholarship; John F. Kennedy Library Foundation; Skidmore College; the Young Entrepreneur Foundation; Westfield-West Springfield Elks Lodge 1481; Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps; Abbott & Fenner Business Consultants; Ronald McDonald House Charities; Jack Kent Cooke Foundation; American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program; GE-Reagan Foundation Scholarship Program; Henry David Thoreau Foundation; Aspiring Fashion Professional Scholarship; Aspiring Animation Professional Scholarship; Horace Smith Fund; Aspiring Nurse Scholarship.

Meritaid.com: On this free website, students can complete a profile and then access the college merit scholarships that match their profile. This organization does not sell its email lists to third parties. The site includes a comprehensive directory of merit scholarships and academic scholarships across the country.

Did You Know: The College of Rhode Island was renamed Brown University after Nicholas Brown donated \$5,000 to the school in 1804. To put things in perspective, tuition was only \$5!

Pet food drive ends this weekend

Dave's Soda and Pet City is teaming up with Kane's Crusade, Feline Friends, Second Chance Animal Shelter, and T.J. O'Connor Animal Control and Adoption Center to host a food drive to make sure that shelter animals have the food they need this holiday season.

Dave's Furry Friends Food Drive will run through Dec. 20 at all seven of Dave's Soda and Pet City locations, including the one at 151 Springfield St., Agawam. Drop boxes for donations will be available during store hours. Local shelters are in need of both wet and dry dog and cat food. Small animal food and other pet supplies will also be accepted.

The most requested items are grain-free treats, dry dog food, canned dog and cat food, lid products, large dog treats (pig ears, rawhide), Purina Cat Chow-Indoor, Friskies Canned Food (shredded/shreds), and cleaning products.

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Breakfast with Santa
Saturday, Dec. 19th, 9 -11 am
Please join us for a pancake breakfast and a visit with Santa!
Free of charge with a canned good for the Open Pantry. Reservations required! Call 786-6133.
Bring your own camera for pictures.
Avoid the crowds at the mall and give your child the gift of unhurried time with Santa.

Blue Christmas Service
Saturday, Dec. 19th at 1 pm
Do the holidays often leave you feeling blue? Do you miss that certain someone who put the 'Happy' into your holidays? If you feel blue during the holidays for any reason, join us for our Blue Christmas Service

Christmas Eve Services
Thursday, Dec. 24th
4 pm – Christmas Eve Pageant
4 pm – Family Christmas Eve Service
10 pm – Candlelight Service

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O holy night



Doreen Pyrek lends over to help her granddaughter Jamisen Campbell, 4, decorate a cookie at the Church of Redemption event. Both are from Enfield.



Melissa and Socrates Lorenzo of West Springfield, dressed as Mary and Joseph, stand with Agawam resident Grace Metras and the cookie she decorated at the treat table.



From left, Cam Belmer portrays one of the Magi, Mackenzie Lynch is Mary, Zach Belmer is Joseph and Gregory Gilbert and Scott Miltimore are the other two Magi in the Church of Redemption's "Live Nativity" tableau on Saturday night in Agawam. The Belmers are from Agawam; the others are from West Springfield. Pastor Bill Pass said the church has been holding this event for about four years. This year's event included a cookie decorating table, baked goods and hot beverages, and barn animals loaned from the Zoo at Forest Park. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY MICHAEL J. BALLWAY



Cheryl Carrier of Enfield, far right, leads the choir in Christmas carols and hymns outside the Church of Redemption during the Live Nativity. In the front row, at left, is Rob Rivers of Indian Orchard; center-right, Chuck Schivley of Agawam.

Cultural Council awards nearly \$12K for performances, school events

State Sen. Donald Humason, R-Westfield, state Rep. Nicholas Boldyga, R-Southwick, and Bob Kadis, chairman of the Agawam Cultural Council, have announced the awards of 29 grants totaling \$11,900, for cultural programs in Agawam.

There were a total of 42 applications requesting \$46,341. The Cultural Council met in November to choose which programs to support — some were funded partially — and finalized their approvals on Dec. 7. Three hundred dollars of the \$11,900 was unspent grant funding from last year; the rest was an appropriation from the state Legislature.

Grant awards announced this month include the following public events:

- A holiday season concert to be held this Sunday, Dec. 20, at St. John the Evangelist Church on Main Street, \$1,000.
 - "From Ireland to America," a musical performance celebrating Irish-American culture by Roger Ticknell at the Agawam Senior Center, set for March 11, \$450.
 - The Agawam Colleen float for the March 20 Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Parade, \$500.
 - "Great American Masters of Song," a performance by vocalist Sarah Clay and pianist Nick Kachulis at the Senior Center planned for April 5, \$300.
 - "Trial and Error," an audience-participation comedy murder mystery to be performed at the Senior Center on April 22, \$350.
 - "Theatrical Magic," a 45-minute program of juggling and magic by James Jameson, slated for June 24 as the kickoff for the Agawam Public Library's Summer Reading Program, \$200.
 - "This A-Way, Mezdudio!" a folk song-and-dance program for children at the library on July 7, \$395.
 - "Travelin' Shoes: Multicultural Storytelling Extravaganza," a family-friendly event to be held July 28 at the library, \$200.
 - "The Gravestone Girls," a program to be hosted by the library and Agawam Historical Commission at the library in October, \$250.
- Also receiving partial funding were a proposed one-woman show "Anne Sullivan, a Celebration," at the Red Door Theatre, which was given \$300; and Hilltown Families Suggest, an online community and cultural engagement site covering Western Massachusetts, which got a \$50 grant.
- Grants from the Cultural Council will also support several student events at local schools:
- Agawam High School, \$1,258 for a day trip by U.S. history classes to see "Hamilton" on Broadway in New York City in January.
 - Agawam Junior High School, \$1,000 for a day trip to see "Matilda, the Musical" in

New York City; the trip occurred Dec. 2.

- AJHS, \$1,000 for the annual five-night trip to Washington, D.C., in April.
- AJHS, \$100 for the "Everyone Has a Story" assembly sponsored by the PTO.
- Doering School, \$425 for "The Magical Potter's Wheel," a performance about pottery, to be given by Richard Hamelin.
- Granger School, \$1,397 for several programs sponsored by the PTO.
- Robinson Park School, \$1,470 for several programs sponsored by the PTO.
- Robinson Park School, \$150 for a field trip to the Look Back program at Storowton Village.
- Phelps School, \$1,100 for several programs and field trips sponsored by the PTO.

Kadis said there were no grant funding requests from Clark School. In addition to the grant-funded public performances, the Cultural Council will also sponsor several Applause Series events in 2016, funded by local donations, Kadis said.

The Agawam Cultural Council is part of a network of 329 local cultural councils serving all 351 cities and towns in Massachusetts. The state cultural council program is the largest grassroots cultural funding network in the nation, supporting thousands of community-based projects in the arts, sciences and humanities every year. The state Legislature provides an annual appropriation to the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, which then allocates funds to each community.

Decisions about which activities to support are made at the community level by a board of municipally appointed volunteers. Cultural Council members are Shirley Cuslowski, Tina Dunham, Jane Eitel, Bob Kadis, Walter Mantani, David Owens, Jackie Owens, Elsa Rosenak, Ceil Rossi and Maryellen Sullivan.

"I am proud to support the hardworking volunteers of the Agawam Cultural Council and their continued efforts to promote the local artistic community and expand cultural opportunities for all citizens," said Humason. "Congratulations to this year's grant recipients and thank you to the Cultural Council members for the outstanding job you do for the city."

"I'm pleased to announce that Agawam has received a number of grants for arts and humanities programs," Boldyga said. "MCC grants help to ensure that cultural resources in Agawam and across the Commonwealth are accessible to residents."

The Agawam Cultural Council will seek applications again in the fall. Information and forms are available at www.agawamcc.org; click on "Grants." Applications are due Oct. 15, 2016.

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CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY MASS SCHEDULE

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Opinion

OUR VIEW

Tax split risks a business backlash

It's hard to argue with property tax relief for homeowners, but Agawam residents need to remember that the biggest factor keeping their tax rates low, more important than the "shift" that charges a higher rate for businesses, is the actual presence of businesses themselves.

In its effort to shave pennies off the residential rate, the City Council walks a fine line. The higher that split climbs — this year, it's up from 1.48 to 1.52, meaning businesses are paying more than one and a half times what they would be paying if there were no split — the more likely it is that short-term relief for homeowners could turn into a long-term downturn as businesses leave a high-tax town. Business taxpayers are a windfall for town government, generally large properties that help fund the schools, library and Senior Center without using any of these services. Of course, they also don't vote — but they can move.

Don't think the rising tax rates on businesses — from \$28.29 per \$1,000 assessed value in fiscal 2015, to \$29.98 in the current fiscal year — will pass unnoticed. That's a rate increase of almost 6 percent. Even more important than the impact on current businesses, which have a substantial capital investment in town and inertia keeping them in place, is the message that it sends to potential new businesses when a town is asking its commercial and industrial properties to shoulder so much more of the tax burden than their "fair share."

Agawam isn't alone in having a split rate. The other industrial cities of the Springfield area all have split rates, and all had much higher rates than Agawam's in fiscal 2015, from \$31.67 in Chicopee, through West Springfield, Westfield and Springfield, to \$39.93 in Holyoke. It bears noting that property values will vary based on location, but at least on the face of it, Agawam is competitive with its larger neighbors.

The other three nearest Massachusetts towns, though, present a different picture to would-be builders, with business tax rates lower than Agawam's in fiscal 2015: \$26.13 in Longmeadow (which had a very small shift, and the highest residential tax rate in the region), and \$20.72 in East Longmeadow and \$16.94 in Southwick (both of which had no split — a single rate for both residential and business property).

Agawam is an attractive destination for manufacturers and warehouses, with ample industrial land with easy highway access via Route 57, professional police and fire coverage, city utilities and a clean and safe community. But to attract relocated businesses and hang on to existing ones, Town Hall needs to send the message that it's business-friendly. Outreach by the town's Planning Department is part of that; expedited permitting is part of that; but a reasonable tax rate, a rate that respects the town's largest property owners rather than treating them as a cash cow to be milked to throw a little relief at voters, is a big part of it, too.

What do you think? Email your letter to the editor to aan@turley.com.



JAY SPEAKS

Pursuit of the Black Dragon Society

Japan, 1945

In mid-summer 1945, I joined elements of the 27th Infantry Division. We were training for the invasion of the Japanese homeland. We would wade ashore under simulated fire from the beaches. After 4 p.m. we would then send a warplane loaded with warm beer aloft and hope that he might come down with cold beer.

One day my sergeant called me over and pointed to the headquarters hut and said, "Berger, go see Captain Mayer. He's got something for you." I found my way to the captain's office, saluted and was asked to sit down. Alongside him sat an Oriental-looking person (we called them "Orientals" then, not Asians as now). He was introduced as Sam. I shook hands and resumed seating.

The captain opened the conversation by telling me what Sam was doing here in the Marshall Islands. I began thinking, "what has this got to do with me?" He said that Sam had completed his mission in Germany and now can use his talents in the Pacific. Sam was fluent in German and Japanese, inasmuch as his dad was German and his mom was Japanese.

"Now, Berger, getting to you, I am putting together a special group within military intelligence, people who we can use before and during the invasion. We will be searching out Japanese who are members of a secret society called 'Black Dragons.'"

The captain went on to tell how this group had much to do with Japan's behavior in choosing to go to war with the U.S. The captain said, "before going on further, can I count on you to be part of this unit? We have checked you out, and it appears that you would be a good fit for this project." I quickly stood up and saluted and said, "I am honored to be chosen."

I moved my equipment to a different area of the island. This happened so quickly that I was not surprised when the following morning I received word that we were flying into Okinawa. We landed in Okinawa to the announcement that an A-bomb had been dropped on a major Japanese city called Hiroshima, with hundreds of thousands of casualties.

I got settled in and then quickly a second bomb was dropped on Nagasaki with drastic results. In the interim, Sam and the captain were prepping us with background on the Black Dragons and some of the code names that they were using (of course, in Japanese). The three that I recall were "The Sleeper," "Fire Tongs" and "Number One."

Shortly after Nagasaki, the announcement came that there would be a Japanese surrender and there would be an occupation force. The captain told us at our next meeting that we would be a part of the initial occupying group and that it was determined that we would be headquartered at Tachikawa Air Base about 20 miles from Tokyo.

A few days later the surrender was signed and we were off in a B-25 for Tachikawa. Our tents were set up not far from the runway and we met in the headquarters tent. The captain had been prepped at a high level and he reported to us that the Black Dragon Society had fought with the emperor's men. They did not want the emperor to make his radio broadcast announcing Japan's surrender. Their argument went like this: "The U.S. does not have an endless supply of A-Bombs. If Japan resists, the U.S. will have to invade. There will be enormous casualties and the American public will not put up with that loss of life and they will pull out. Japan will be victorious."

The captain said, "Our insider reports from the imperial palace say, the Black Dragon members have left Tokyo and are now in an industrial area of Niigata. We will pull out today by Jeep and locate them and bring them to justice." He thought that we might need the Jeep rather than fly and not have ground transport. It was a long trip to Niigata and when we arrived we were asked by the local mayor to be his guest at a dinner in our honor. The captain accepted and we were fed and entertained.

The mayor was asked about our information regarding the Black Dragons and of course he pleaded no knowledge, but he did know of the industrial area that we were going to search. There were three buildings set in what could be called a triangle. They were three stories tall and I would guess at 50,000 square feet each. From the machinery present, they might have been in the clothing manufacture.

We were looking at the offices, however, and we had Sam to ask questions and look at paperwork. In the second building, a Japanese official handed a bundle of papers to the captain. He passed it along to Sam, asking, "What do you make of these, Sam?"

After poring through them, Sam announced it looks like lists of Japanese who had been abroad while the war was going on. Perhaps they were trying to bring them home.

The captain had a different thought: "Perhaps the Black Dragons think that they can recruit an army from these troops in China, Manchuria, Indonesia, Formosa and the islands that we bypassed."

In the third building, a janitor questioned by Sam proclaimed that "I heard the leader say that they were leaving for Yokohama to find a boat." The captain said, "There was a story going around that the Dragons had stashed some gold bullion in a warehouse in Yokohama. If it didn't burn down during the bombings, perhaps it's still there."

We finished up in Niigata, thanking the mayor and the industrial people, and got back in the Jeeps. We took turns sleeping



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FAITH MATTERS

God's gift to a dark world

It's the most wonderful time of the year!" I cringe as the radio blasts this familiar tune. For many, this is the hardest time of the year. While I would love to wrap my family in ribbons and bows, and stuff candy canes in my children's mouths, it just doesn't work for me. In a world of illness, poverty, homelessness, diminishing family culture, racism, violence and general brokenness, I cannot will my heart to sing along. Maybe our world isn't so different from the one that Jesus was born into.

I'm not an expert on Biblical society, but I do know the political and social climate of Jesus' day wasn't all twinkling lights and joyful carols. Jesus didn't ride in a sleigh surrounded by elves bringing the latest cell phone for all. He was born into a world with a frustrating political system that strongly impacted the faith and daily lives of the people. There was the constant threat of senseless violence. Dramatic social stratification of the classes created obscene wealth and crushing poverty.

It is so easy to forget that Jesus came into a dark world to seek and save the lost. Especially when I turn on the television and am bombarded with the message that this season will bring me everything I need for a happy, healthy, delightful life. Yet this isn't why Jesus came. Jesus was born in a dark, dirty stable to bring us peace. Love came wrapped in swaddling clothes, as a baby. Jesus is the greatest gift we could ever possibly receive, and yet there was no room for him.



Janet Brown

So how do we make room for Him in our lives? How can we give this year in a way that will honor God's gift to us? Can we offer words of hope? Can we help those searching for kindness and peace? Would a pause from the hustle and bustle allow true joy to enter our hearts? Take time to focus on the hope, peace, joy and love of Christ, and invite Him into your celebrations. Don't miss out on the wonder of Christmas trying to cram the most festivities in one weekend.

What, then, do I want for my own children this Christmas? I want to give them the gift of my full attention and love. I want to share with them the greatest gift that entered this world on that first Christmas and inspire them to show true kindness and goodwill toward others. I want them to know the most important gifts can't be wrapped and tied with a bow — to remember that Christ was born into our dark world to bring us the light of God and that the light always shines through the darkness. Honestly, what better gift could we receive?

On second thought, perhaps it is, in fact, the most wonderful time of the year. May your Christmas celebration be so full of love, joy, peace and hope that it sustains you through the entire year to come.

Janet Brown is the director of children and family ministries at Agawam Congregational Church on Main Street.

Adult Ed signups set for Jan. 12-13

Registration for the spring semester of the Agawam Adult Education Program will be held Tuesday and Wednesday, Jan. 12 and 13, from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Agawam High School Career Center connected to the counseling offices.

Late registration will be held up until the night of the first class meeting and during the first week of classes on Jan. 19 and 20 from 5 to 6 p.m., in the Agawam High School Counseling Center. Late registration cost is an additional \$10 per class. Students registering during the first week must attend the first night of class.

Classes begin Tuesday and Wednesday, Jan. 19 and 20, ending on or about April 12 and 13. Classes begin at 6 p.m. and end at 8:30 p.m.

Due to the increasing numbers of enrollment, absolutely no partial payments will be accepted. The full tuition charge of \$125 per course must be paid at the time of registration. Cash or certified checks (bank checks, money orders) should be made payable to Agawam Adult Education. No personal checks will be accepted. No refunds will be given after the second class meeting. Tuition will be refunded if there are an insufficient number of students registered for a course. The administration reserves the right to cancel courses for lack

of registration and change the day a course may be offered.

Those persons interested in working toward an Agawam Evening High School diploma or certificate of attainment must call ahead of time to schedule an appointment with Shawn Tatro to enroll. These students must bring with them a transcript of any course work completed since grade 9, any MCAS test scores, and a letter of withdrawal from the previous attended high school. The SASID number must also be provided in the letter.

The following is a list of courses and the nights they are being offered this semester:

Tuesday classes: English 09; English 10; English 11; English 12; physical science, biology.

Wednesday classes: Algebra I, algebra II; geometry; U.S. history; world history.

For more information, contact Shawn Tatro, director, at 413-726-1276 or 413-726-1647, or statro@agawampublicschools.org.

If Agawam schools are closed because of inclement weather, evening school is also cancelled. Local radio stations will announce any cancellations. Make-up days for inclement weather will be scheduled during the term. April 26 and 27 will be reserved for possible snow make-up days.

Santa breakfast, 'Blue Christmas' service this weekend

St. David's Episcopal Church at 699 Springfield St., Feeding Hills, will host Breakfast with Santa from 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 19. The event is free of charge with a canned good to be donated to the Open Pantry. Guests are encouraged to bring a camera for pictures. For reservations, which are re-

quired, call 413-786-6133.

Also, beginning at 1 p.m., a "Blue Christmas Service" is scheduled. Those feeling blue during the holidays for any reason are invited to this service.

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 21, Roberta G. Doering School, 68 Main St., Agawam

- A. Roll call
- B. Moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance
- C. Citizen's speak time
- D. Minutes
- 1. Regular council meeting — Dec. 7, 2015
- E. Declaration from council president
- F. Presentation of Petitions and Resolutions
 - 1. TR-2015-50- Resolution appropriating from the Community Preservation Fund and authorizing the expenditure of Community Preservation Funds for the softball and baseball diamond circuitry and lights located at the Agawam High School (CPA) (Referred to Finance and Community Relations Committees)
 - 2. TR-2015-51- Resolution to increase the bond amount for the new track, field and school locker facility at the Agawam High School (Mayor Cohen) (Referred to Finance Committee)
 - G. Report of council committees
 - H. Elections
 - 1. TE-2015-5- Election of a regular member of the Zoning Board of Appeals to a term expiring Jan. 1, 2019
 - I. Public hearings
 - J. Old Business
 - 1. TO-2015-74- An order granting or renewing a permit for Weekly Amusement for the Main Street Still, Inc., 858 Suffield Street, Agawam, MA. (Clerk) (Referred to Administrative Committee) (Tabled until 12/21/15 meeting)
 - 2. TO-2015-86- Order granting or renewing a Class 2 Dealer's License to Auto Kraft, 119 Walnut Street, Agawam, MA (Clerk) (Referred to Administrative Committee)
 - 3. TO-2015-87- Order granting or renewing a Class 2 Dealer's License to Malkoon Motor Sales, 825 Springfield Street, Agawam, MA (Clerk) (Referred to Administrative Committee)
 - 3. TO-2015-88- A Budgetary Transfer for \$249,000.00 from Line Items – Reserve Fund #16605-57300 to Line Items – Employee Benefit Buyback #16603-51040 (Mayor) (Referred to Finance Committee)
 - 4. TO-2015-89- Order granting or renewing a Class 2 Dealer's License to Paul J. LaPointe d/b/a The Car Connection, 820 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, MA (Clerk) (Referred to Administrative Committee)
 - K. New business: Unavailable at press time.
 - L. Any other matter that may legally come before the City Council.
 - Adjournment

SPEAKS ■ from page 4

and driving and got to Yokohama the next day. The waterfront in that city is enormous. We could not bring in multiple troops and tell them what we were looking for, so we had to do it ourselves. At the same time, we asked around the docks if they had seen any small ships leaving with a few men and some cargo.

Our unit combed through about six warehouses with no success. As we were leaving, a Japanese worker approached Sam and announced that yes, he had seen a small motor vessel with about five or six people leaving earlier, and it looked as though they had a heavy cargo.

The captain called the Air Corps to search the waters of Tokyo Bay for this unknown ship, but to no avail. All those years ago and still no Black Dragon Society has appeared and we have Japan as a partner in many endeavors. They seem happy as a peaceful nation. Do you think that the Black Dragons might be working with other non-peaceful groups?

Jay Berger is a U.S. Army veteran, retired from a job in publishing and lives in Agawam with his wife Kitty. They have three children and six grandchildren.

DEATH NOTICES

Chmielewski, Stanley J.
Died Dec. 10, 2015
Funeral Dec. 15
Agawam Funeral Home, Inc.

Gamelli, Joanne M.
Died Dec. 7
Funeral Dec. 14
Colonial Forastiere Funeral Home of Agawam

Gendron, Lucille F.
Died Dec. 8
Funeral Dec. 14
Agawam Funeral Home, Inc.

Molitor, Norman J.
Died Dec. 11
Private Services
Colonial Forastiere Funeral & Cremation
Agawam

Muchmore, Natalie D.
Died Dec. 10
Funeral Dec. 14
Curran-Jones Funeral Home
West Springfield

Oliveira, Joao P.
Died Dec. 6
Funeral Dec. 16
Ludlow Funeral Home

O'Sullivan, CarolAnn R.
Died Dec. 8
Funeral Dec. 14
Curran-Jones Funeral Home
Agawam

Spagnoli, Vincent P.
Died Dec. 12
Private Burial
Agawam Funeral Home, Inc.

Agawam Advertiser News Obituary Policy

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place. The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$50, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

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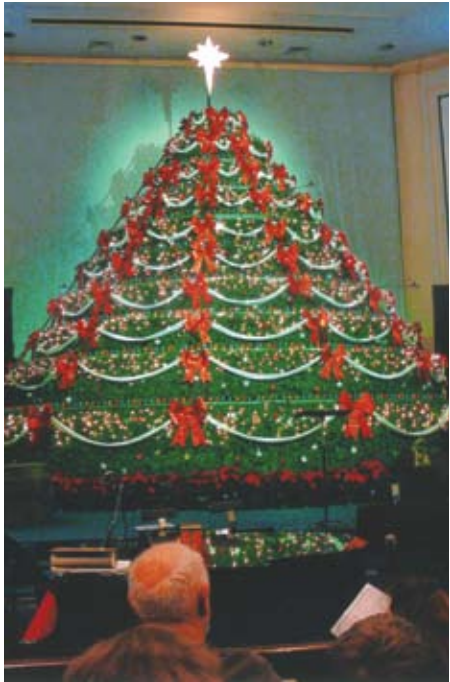
Closing for the Season
December 23rd

Re-Opening
February 14th

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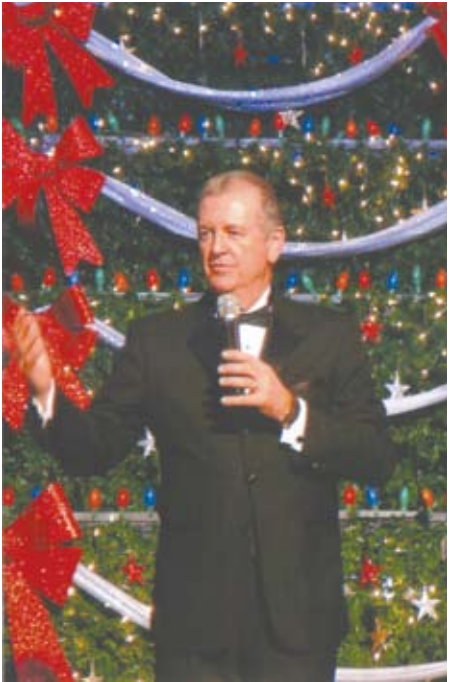
'The Gift of Christmas'

Always of interest at the Bethany Assembly of God each year is the presentation of the story of the birth of Christ. This year,



Bethany Assembly of God again hosted its "Singing Christmas Tree" holiday revue this year, including a mammoth lit and decorated tree dominating the worship hall.

it was portrayed as a story being told by "Mr. Baker" to four members of his family as scenes appeared before them.



Ken Bryars, minister of music at Bethany Assembly of God, performs at the Singing Christmas Tree Spectacular.



Performers at the Singing Christmas Tree Spectacular included an orchestra, actors and a full choir situated on the tree itself. SUBMITTED PHOTOS BY GERALDINE SCHILLING-NORDAL

Recycling dos, don'ts for holiday season

Tracy DeMaio, the town's solid waste and stormwater coordinator, recently asked residents of Agawam to be mindful of the following guidelines for recycling during the holiday and winter months.

The following items may be included in the paper recycling mix for curbside pickup in Agawam: corrugated cardboard; boxes; paperboard gift boxes; greeting cards (except those with foil, metallic inks or glitter); gift wrap, gift bags; tissue wrap (except those with foil, metallic inks or glitter); paper shopping bags (any type of handle is okay); catalogs and calendars.

The following items should not be included in the recycling mix: ribbons, bows, tinsel, and mylar wrapping paper; packing peanuts and Styrofoam (re-usable, contact any pack and ship store); holiday lights; blister packaging (formed plastic package used to hold toys and electronics); plastic bags (clean, dry plastic bags marked No. 2 or No. 4 recyclable at some retailers); photographs.

For more information about recycling, visit at www.springfieldmrf.org, or call the Recycling Hotline at 888-888-0784, ext. 2293.

TEST ■ from page 1

PARCC with a new iteration of MCAS. Districts that used MCAS in 2015 faced a Dec. 18 deadline to choose to administer PARCC in 2016 or to remain with MCAS. Districts that used PARCC in 2015 will continue to use it.

Sapelli said the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education is "looking to prepare students and districts for the next-generation, PARCC-like" test that will be administered on an electronic device such as a Chrome Book or an iPad. He added that many school officials, including Agawam's own information technology staff, are concerned about preparing students for taking a computer test.

He said he had requested and received an extension for Agawam to allow the School Committee to postpone its vote until mid-January. He said the extra time would allow him to get more information for the committee about what other districts that used MCAS in 2015 would do in 2016.

Sapelli said other issues the district needs to be prepared to deal with include having enough devices and enough bandwidth for students to use many devices at the same time during testing. "That's something we should discuss," said Sapelli. "In a month, a lot more information will likely shake out in regards to these tests."

But committee members told Sapelli they didn't need another month to decide how they would vote. "I'm ready to vote tonight for MCAS," said Anthony Bonavita, who made the motion to continue using MCAS next year. "Nothing is going to change between now and January. If West Springfield or some other community votes in favor of PARCC, that's not going to change my vote."

Testing mistrust

Diane Juzba said there's still "too much uncertainty" from the state about its future student assessment program.

"It all comes down to the same thing, in my opinion," she said. "They're trying to get us to do an assessment without providing us with enough information and enough technology to do the assessment."

Both Juzba and Bonavita called it "disturbing" that the DESE is trying to "slide in" a new assessment program by using the old MCAS name.

"I trust our superintendent. I trust our assistant superintendent. I don't trust the state," said Bonavita. "We don't know what they're going to do and I'm not sure they know what they're going to do. They're trying to put us in a position to make us vote for PARCC."

Bonavita — who called what the state is proposing "ridiculous" and "a joke" — suggested that the state adopt a three- or four-year moratorium on developing any new assessments.

"They should study this, come up with answers in 2020 or 2019, say this is what we think is the right thing to do, and then vote on it," he said.

Sapelli said while he shared the committee's frustrations with the state's policy on testing, he has to "deal with the here and now." He told the committee he resents the way the state is treating local districts, but he's trying to look out for what will benefit students in the long run.

"I want to do what's best for our kids, our staff, and our IT department. This [testing issue] isn't going to go away. I'm just worried about what will happen when we move ahead to 2017, '18, '19."

All districts will begin using the next-generation MCAS in spring 2017, with computer-based state assessments starting in spring 2019.

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
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68						69						70		

CLUES ACROSS

- Characters in one inch of tape
- In a hold
- Jewish mystic
- A way to souse
- A small sharp knife
- Frogs, toads, tree toads
- Brew
- Rowdy carouser
- Poetries
- ___ salts, remedy
- Expect eagerly
- Obstructing the view of something
- Denotes three
- Expression of uncertainty
- Greek portico
- Bureau
- Electric battery
- Vapor density
- Radioactivity unit
- Strive to equal or match
- Cologne
- Carrier's invention
- Highest in degree or quality
- Female horses
- Serbian
- Publicity
- Actress Lupino
- Supporting structures
- Jobs
- Indian founder of Sikhism
- Capital of Zimbabwe
- Woman of charm and good looks
- Order
- Draft animal in desert regions
- Unaccented syllable verse
- Fail to keep pace
- Sheath or shirtwaist
- Moss stalks
- ___ Lilly, drug company

CLUES DOWN

- Exclamation of praise
- 200 island Pacific nation (alt. sp.)
- Repeated
- Hungers
- School of Business, UCB
- Bobby __, NHL champ
- Lease
- More parched
- Medieval merchant guild
- Negative ions
- Top
- One of the Gershwins
- Dekalitre
- Imitate
- Gentlemen
- Dawn
- A citizen of Chile
- Bright stars
- Codfish genus
- Extremely unrefined
- Diacritical mark
- Correspondences
- Indicates position
- Small cup
- 12th Greek letter
- Capable of being eliminated
- 12th Jewish month
- Rechristen
- In a way, imputes
- Hydroxyls + 2C
- Follows sigma
- Vegetable shrubs
- South African village
- Monetary unit of D.R. Congo
- First Chinese dynasty
- Divides evenly into (Math)
- Household god (Roman)
- Pakistani rupee
- American time

Answers on page 19

EARLY DEADLINE


To celebrate **CHRISTMAS**, the

AGAWAM ADVERTISER NEWS

Advertising Deadline will be

Monday, Dec. 21

for the Thursday, Dec. 24 issue



24 Water Street
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Public Safety

POLICE LOG

The Agawam Police Department responded to 267 calls for service from Dec. 8 to Dec. 14. The department made six arrests. Those arrested will appear at a future date in Westfield District Court and are innocent until proven guilty.

Thursday, Dec. 10

Jolene Bettro, 32, of Riverdale Road, West Springfield, was arrested on charges of possession of a Class A drug, breaking and entering a motor vehicle, and receiving stolen property over \$250.

David Bettro, 32, of Riverdale Road, West Springfield, was arrested on charges of possession of a Class A drug, breaking and entering a motor vehicle, receiving stolen property over \$250, and malicious destruction of property over \$250.

Desonte Jolivet, 26, of 1808 Canyon Ridge Drive, Broad Brook, Conn., was arrested on charges of speeding in violation of special regulation, marked lanes violation, and operating under the influence of liquor.

Joseph M. Labosco, 18, of 490 School St., Agawam, was arrested on charges of person under 21 in possession of liquor, uninsured motor vehicle, and miscellaneous motor vehicle equipment violation.

Monday, Dec. 14

Brian C. Holden, 38, of 34 Portland St., Agawam, was arrested on a default warrant for failure to appear.

Michael Klang, 30, of 509 Whitney Ave., Apt. 1C, Holyoke, was arrested on charges of disorderly conduct, resisting arrest, and assault and battery on a police officer.

FIRE LOG

The Agawam Fire Department responded to 67 EMS calls from Dec. 1 to Dec. 7, and the following emergency response calls.

On Dec. 1 at 10:29 a.m., the department responded to Bowles Road for smoke scare, odor of smoke.

On Dec. 1 at 10:41 a.m., the department responded to Adams Street for detector activation, no fire - unintentional.

On Dec. 1 at 7:37 p.m., the department responded to Meadowbrook Manor for lockout.

On Dec. 1 at 8:06 p.m., the department responded to Channell Drive for good intent call, other.

On Dec. 2 at 4:11 a.m., the department responded to Regency Park Drive for good intent call, other.

On Dec. 2 at 1:02 p.m., the department responded to N. Westfield Street for public service assistance, other.

On Dec. 2 at 2:29 p.m., the department responded to Wilson Street for smoke detector activation, no fire - unintentional.

On Dec. 3 at 7:10 a.m., the department responded to Mansion Woods Drive to assist invalid.

On Dec. 3 at 9:19 a.m., the department responded to King Street for public service assistance, other.

On Dec. 3 at 1:11 p.m., the department responded to Main Street for public service assistance, other.

On Dec. 3 at 8:30 p.m., the department responded to Valentine Terrace for carbon monoxide incident.

On Dec. 4 at 2:13 p.m., the department responded to Elm Street for motor vehicle accident with injuries.

On Dec. 4 at 3:48 p.m., the department responded to Meadowbrook Manor for cooking fire, confined to container.

On Dec. 4 at 4:03 p.m., the department responded to Suffield Street for lockout.

On Dec. 4 at 7:40 p.m., the department responded to Parker Street for gas leak, natural gas or LPG.

On Dec. 5 at 12:20 a.m., the department responded

to Walnut Street for alarm system sounded due to malfunction.

On Dec. 5 at 12:48 a.m., the department responded to Walnut Street for smoke detector activation due to malfunction.

On Dec. 5 at 2:15 a.m., the department responded to N. Westfield Street for public service assistance, other.

On Dec. 5 at 7:25 a.m., the department responded to Country Road for public service assistance, other.

On Dec. 5 at 8:20 a.m., the department responded to Silver Street for motor vehicle accident with injuries.

On Dec. 5 at 11:11 a.m., the department responded to Ruth Avenue for citizen complaint.

On Dec. 5 at 4:07 p.m., the department responded to James Avenue for citizen complaint.

On Dec. 5 at 5:11 p.m., the department responded to Springfield Street for citizen complaint.

On Dec. 5 at 8:26 p.m., the department responded to Valentine Street for citizen complaint.

On Dec. 6 at 6:20 a.m., the department responded to Route 57 West for motor vehicle accident with injuries.

On Dec. 6 at 11:59 a.m., the department responded to Rowley Street for motor vehicle accident with injuries.

On Dec. 6 at 2:35 p.m., the department responded to Leonard Street for service call, other.

On Dec. 6 at 5:15 p.m., the department responded to Suffield Street for lockout.

On Dec. 7 at 9:28 a.m., the department responded to Leonard Street for public service.

On Dec. 7 at 1:17 p.m., the department responded to Dogwood Lane for public service.

On Dec. 7 at 3:16 p.m., the department responded to Colemore Street for motor vehicle accident with injuries.

On Dec. 7 at 5:27 p.m., the department responded to Main Street for motor vehicle accident with no injuries.

Senior Friends planning trips to Vermont, Vegas

The Friends of the Agawam Senior Center will host the following trips. For information and to sign up, call Penny Hardick at 413-519-7223. All checks should be made payable to the Friends of Agawam Senior Center and mailed to P.O. Box 601, Agawam, MA 01001.

Tuesday, April 12: Bennington, Vt. The bus will depart the Senior Center at 8:30 a.m. and will return at approximately 6 p.m. The first stop will be at the Chocolatorium, a new chocolate exhibit and party place. Lunch will be at Bennington Station Restaurant and will include a choice of roast turkey, Yankee pot roast and scrod, with soup, salad, apple crisp and ice cream, and coffee or tea. Cost is \$72 per person and includes all taxes and gratuities. A \$10 deposit must be made with reservation with balance due on or before March 7.

Sunday-Friday, April 24-29: Las Vegas. Depart from St. John's Church, 833 Main St., Agawam at 4:30 a.m. for a flight from Bradley Airport in Windsor Locks via Southwest Airlines. This trip is scheduled as non-stop. Cost is \$869 per person, double or triple occupancy, and \$1,069 per single. It includes five nights at the Monte Carlo Las Vegas on

the Strip; round-trip transfers to and from the airport; round-trip airfare; greeter and round-trip transfer from the Las Vegas airport to the hotel; one show; discount "fun book"; trip cancellation insurance; baggage handling (one bag per person); and all taxes. A \$200 deposit is due to reserve a seat with final payment due March 1. Space is limited.

Tuesday-Thursday, May 17-19: Amish Country, Lancaster, Pa. Cost is \$419 per person, double occupancy; \$397 per person, triple occupancy; \$507 per single. It includes two new shows, "Samson" at the Sight and Sound Theater and "The Million Dollar Quartet" at the Dutch Apple Dinner Theater. It also includes roundtrip motor coach, two nights lodging at the Lancaster Hotel; two breakfasts; all taxes and gratuities; luggage handling (one bag per person) and trip insurance. On day two, there will be a step-on-guide tour of the Amish country. Travelers will enjoy a typical Amish feast at the Plain and Fancy Restaurant. On the last day, the bus will depart for the Landis Valley Village and Farm Museum. A \$100 deposit is due at sign-up with final payment due April 8.



Partners Restaurant reopened last weekend, 15 months after a fire closed it.

Partners rises from ashes

By Michael J. Ballway
mballway@turley.com

You've been asking for it, and now you've got it: Partners is back.

"OPEN YAY" read the message board this week at 485 Springfield St., Feeding Hills, marking the return of an Agawam dining institution after it was shuttered by a Sept. 5, 2014, fire.

Mark and Sue Tansey, who own the restaurant, have kept busy since the fire. They continued to operate their catering business, which allowed them to keep key staff on the payroll. Six Flags New England let them use a kitchen at the theme park, but it was too cold in the winter and the catering operation moved to First Baptist Church on Elm Street. The telephone and computer remained in the Tanseys' house, however, so orders would have to be relayed from one location to the other.

"Our home was in disarray," Tansey said. Ironically, they had to have their family Thanksgiving dinner this year at the rebuilt restaurant on Springfield Street, because Partners paperwork, office equipment, decorations and supplies had taken over so much of their house.

In the midst of rebuilding their Springfield Street restaurant, Partners also reopened the Cup, a diner on Westfield Street in West Springfield that had been closed for several years. Again, the core staff from before the fire went to "Partners at the Cup." That staff is now back in Feeding Hills, after having trained their own replacements at the West Side location.

"I've had a great staff," said Tansey. "Customers come in because of the people who work here."

Catering and the second restaurant also served to keep the Partners name on people's minds, and give private parties a chance to experience Partners hospitality, Tansey said.

"As soon as the fire [was out], I was thinking 'customer retention,'" said Tansey, and he said it's worked: "Up to last week, people were asking when we would reopen. We were asked that daily for 30 days times 15 months."

Tansey said returning customers will note the absence of the wall that once divided Partners into two dining rooms. The new space also features higher ceilings and about eight more seating places. "Uncle Charlie," the menu-toting statue, did not survive the fire, Tansey said.

The décor is a mix of rustic and deco, with items chosen by Sue Tansey. The light fixtures over the lunch counter are inverted colanders with measuring spoons dangling.



Mark Tansey sits at the lunch counter of the recently reopened Partners Restaurant on Springfield Street. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY MICHAEL J. BALLWAY

Tables and stools shine with bright chrome. The walls on one corner of the restaurant are papered over with roadmaps, part of a "travel" theme that includes a set of globes, souvenir pennants and a display of decorative plates from across the country.

"She has a great knack for decorating and choosing husbands," quipped Mark Tansey.

The menu features many of the old Partners favorites, Tansey said, with a few new choices inspired by his family's travels, such as breakfast burritos and chicken-and-waffles. Huevos rancheros and grits, which had formerly been occasional specials, are now everyday options.

The restaurant invited some of its "regulars" to come in last Friday for breakfast and lunch, and opened to the public starting Saturday, Dec. 12. A grand reopening celebration is being planned for January, Tansey said.

Mark Tansey said he's owned the restaurant since 1984. He purchased it from Carmella O'Leary, who had also run it under the name Partners. There had been a restaurant in the building since at least the 1970s, Tansey said.

Partners Restaurant in Feeding Hills is open for breakfast and lunch, 6 a.m. to 2 p.m., six days a week, and breakfast only, 7 a.m. to 1 p.m., on Sundays.

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St. David's plans Christmas Eve service

St. David's Episcopal Church, 699 Springfield St., Feeding Hills, next to the Agawam Police Station, has announced the following special services.

Thursday, Dec. 24: Christmas Eve — 4 p.m., Christmas Eve Pageant, Family Christmas Eve Service; 10 p.m., Candlelight Services.

Sunday, Dec. 27: 9 a.m., Traditional Service of Lessons and Carols.

Residents invited to candlelight Christmas services

Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main St., will host a family candlelight service at 5 p.m. and a traditional candlelight service at 11 p.m. on Christmas Eve, Thursday, Dec. 24. All are invited.

Clergy host caroling Sunday evening

The Agawam Clergy Association will host "Christmas Caroling on the Green" at 4:30 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 20. All are invited to Veterans Green, 689 Main St., Agawam, for the lighting of the Christmas tree, singing of Christmas carols followed by hot chocolate and cookies.

In the event of inclement weather, the event will take place in the Agawam Congregational Church hall at 745 Main St.

FIELDS | from page 1

jointly on Dec. 14. The Community Relations panel, which consists of councilors George Bitzas, James Cichetti and Cecilia Calabrese, could not agree on whether to recommend the light package. Bitzas made a motion to support the lights, but there was no second and Calabrese and Cichetti did not make a motion in the other direction.

Bitzas said he supports the lights for the baseball and softball fields because there are many parents that are not able to get to games during the day, and he believes the lighted fields could be used by summer leagues and adult softball leagues.

Council President Christopher Johnson was present at the meeting, and commented the lights would not get enough use by Agawam teams for them to be a worthwhile investment. He rejected the idea of using the field for outside teams, believing too much outside use would ruin the fields and the town would not make enough money to cover the electricity and maintenance costs.

"I have a tough time swallowing using \$388,000 for maybe 20 [varsity games] a year," said Johnson.

Bonfiglio also added Stratton said not all softball and baseball games would be contested under lights.

Calabrese sits on the Finance Subcommittee, along with councilors Anthony Suffriti and Joseph Mineo. She suggested that that group not recommend the lights to the full council. Her motion passed 2-1 with Suffriti supporting it, and Mineo against.

The Finance Subcommittee unanimously recommended increasing the borrowing authorization, but not before several councilors engaged in a debate about the impact the borrowing will have on an early childhood center proposal that School Superintendent William Sapelli is expected to bring forward in the next year.

"If we approve the borrowing for the athletic facility, we are not going to be able to take on the ECC," said Johnson.

According to information provided by Treasurer Laurel Placek, the bond-

ing for the athletic facility project could cost the average residential taxpayer an estimated extra \$50 on their tax bill when the bond hits. Johnson said he is considered about that tax impact for the first few years of the bond, saying other debts will come off the books after that.

But councilors at the meeting agreed approving the athletic facility project would set a potential early childhood center back by at least five years.

Ultimately, the Finance Subcommittee members decided to support the project because funding had already been approved and money had been spent on the design.

The full City Council will decide on the lights and extra borrowing at its Monday meeting scheduled for 7 p.m. at Roberta Doering School.

Bonfiglio said the \$7,950,000 bid also includes improvements to the dugouts on the varsity softball field, an addition that came as result of a walkthrough of the athletic facilities in August.

VEHICLE | from page 1

"It made the most sense to put it there because most of the remote areas will be on that side of town," said Sirois.

The Agawam Police Department will also have use of the UTV. Gillis said the vehicle could be useful in situations of chases in remote areas, or locating a lost person, something that happens with some frequency.

There is a small amount of training required to operate the vehicle, though it is nothing more than a typical "all-terrain" vehicle course, Sirois said. He believes all firefighters and EMTs will be trained to use the vehicle. Gillis said he did not think it will be necessary to train all of his officers on the vehicle, and stressed that more often than not, the police and fire departments will work in tandem when the UTV is needed.

"Most of the time, when the Fire Department is dispatched somewhere, we are asked to go out and assist," said Gillis. "So we are right out there with them and they have the ability to operate the UTV."

The UTV is an all-wheel drive John Deere 855D. It is a diesel-powered two-seat vehicle. It has a specialized skid unit on the back which can be used to transport a victim as well as carry needed supplies to a scene.

The vehicle cost about \$20,000 and was part of the town's fiscal 2016 capital improvement budget, Cohen said. He believes the new vehicle will be a welcome addition.

"I believe this is something that is long overdue," said Cohen. "This will provide Police and Fire with the means to improve public safety and provide better coverage for our expanding biking trails and use of other open spaces in the community."

The skid unit also includes a 50-gallon water tank, which Sirois said could be used to prevent a small fire from expanding, or to make a path to access a victim trapped in a fire.



Fire Chief Alan Sirois, Deputy Fire Chief B.J. Calvi, Mayor Richard Cohen and Police Chief Eric Gillis stand in front of the Fire and Police departments' new utility terrain vehicle last Wednesday at the Agawam Fire Department. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



The UTV features a skid unit in the back with a place to carry out a patient and a 50-gallon water tank. There is also an area for supplies.

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Youth

School Lunch

AGAWAM HIGH SCHOOL

The Agawam High School lunch menu is posted on the school's website.

AGAWAM JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL ROBERTA G. DOERING SCHOOL AGAWAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Monday, Dec. 21: Popcorn chicken bites with dipping sauce, mashed potatoes, seasoned vegetable, fresh and chilled fruit.
Tuesday, Dec 22: Stuffed-crust pizza, salad with light dressing, fresh and chilled fruit, cookie.
Wednesday, Dec. 23: Half day. No lunch.
Thursday, Dec. 24: No school.
Friday, Dec. 25: No school.

ELEMENTARY BREAKFAST MENU

Monday, Dec. 21: Assorted low-sugar cereal, 1 percent low-fat milk, cinnamon graham crackers, mozzarella cheese string, juice.
Tuesday, Dec. 22: Assorted low-sugar cereal, 1 percent low-fat milk, assorted nutri-grain bars, mozzarella cheese string, juice.
Wednesday, Dec. 23: Assorted low-sugar cereal, 1 percent low-fat milk, assorted muffins, mozzarella cheese string, juice.
Thursday, Dec. 24: No school.
Friday, Dec. 25: No school.



The Brick Heads, one of two Agawam teams that qualified at a FIRST Lego League robotics tournament last weekend, consist of nine fifth- and sixth-graders from Doering School. Submitted photo

Free photos with Santa this Saturday

Heritage Woods Senior Living will be offering free photos with Santa Claus from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 19. The day's events will also include treats and activities. Heritage Woods is at 462 Main St., Agawam. For more information or to make a reservation, call 413-789-8332 or email Nicole.wallace@genesishccc.com.

Youth volunteer drive at library

The Agawam Public Library is seeking student volunteers, age 13 and older to help prepare crafts, help with programs or serve on one of the two planning boards for teens. The volunteer drive will be held from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 5, Thursday, Jan. 7, and Wednesday, Jan. 13.

A table will be set up in the front of the library at 750 Cooper St., Agawam, where teens can learn about ways they can take an active role in the library. For more information, call Pamela Weingart at 413-789-1550, ext. 3.

Brick Heads, Thunder advance to WPI

Twenty-one teams competed at the FIRST Lego League robotics qualifier Saturday, Dec. 12, at Agawam Junior High School. Six teams were selected to go to the state championship, including

two teams from Agawam, Team 431 the Brick Heads, and Team 3634 Team Thunder. The state championship is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 19, at Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

Best on the test



For the first time, students in grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, and 10 who received perfect scores on the MCAS tests were honored for this achievement. At a recent School Committee meeting, 11 of the 14 students who performed flawlessly on the 2015 MCAS tests posed for a group photo with school administrators and the committee after being awarded their certificates by Superintendent William Sapelli. TURLEY PUBLICATION PHOTOS BY MIKE LYDICK



Sixth grader David Dagenais proudly shows off the certificate he received from Superintendent William Sapelli. He was the only one who was perfect in two subject areas, English-language arts and math.



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Despite having some problems keeping her name sign up, senior Gabrielle "Gabby" Lescarbeau is all smiles. TURLEY PUBLICATION PHOTOS BY MIKE LYDICK



Christmas in America is the theme of this artwork created by Jen Rossi, 18, that is bordered by some iconic twinkling Christmas lights. The senior is an Art Honors II student.



Bailey Laviolette, right, and Katie Grasso, both juniors, make some last-minute adjustments to their artwork before the start of Winter Arts Fest.

Inspiring student art work showcased at AHS Winter Arts Festival

By Mike Lydick
aan@turley.com

Agawam High School art students drew inspiration from comic book heroes, familiar New England icons and brands, the ballet, and even the "hippie" Woodstock music festival in 1969 to create art projects displayed at the school's annual Winter Arts Festival the evening of Dec. 9.

Unlike the Spring Arts Festival, which is only for students in National Art Honors I and II classes to show off their work for the entire year, the winter show is an opportunity for art students at all levels to showcase their creative endeavors for the first half of the school year.

"Students have been working tirelessly since the beginning of the school year to create an outstanding exhibit for the public," said Deb Florek, one of



Holding a shield similar to the one used by comic book superhero Captain America is senior Frank Masteomatteo IV. The senior crafted it from scratch, shaping the metal body and the handles he's using to hold the shield, and then painting it.

the four AHS art teachers who helped to organize the event.

Artwork on display included work from not only the Honors I and II classes but classes for drawing and painting, digital photography, sculpture, mixed media, and studio experience.

Both art festivals allow students to share their work with the public, families, and supporters of the arts.

Several art students were also among the singers in the school's choral groups that performed that evening. The groups, directed by Sonja Funk, included the school's chorale, the honors chorus (Tonal Tenacity), the Bell-Tones, and Turn Up the Brass.

A \$5 admission fee, a holiday raffle, and a bake sale helped to raise money for three annual art scholarships that will be awarded at the spring festival.



Laura Cafaro loves the ballet, so the junior created this impressionist-style painting of a ballerina.



Junior Jenna Gamelli proudly shows off this "objet d'art" she created that combines two special objects into one painting: her ring and flowers from her great-grandmother.



The honors chorus, Tonal Tenacity, was among four student singing groups that performed at the Winter Arts Festival under the direction of Sonja Funk.



Brands and iconic images unique to modern-day New England are depicted in this collage painting by senior Diane McGregor.



Junior Erika Syt is much too young to have been at Woodstock in 1969, but she was inspired by the many musicians at that three-day festival. She chose to paint some of those "incredible performers" in all their glory.



Senior Laura Wynne has never been to Las Vegas, but chose to portray it because of its culture impact as an icon of Americana.

Senator sponsors free ice skating Dec. 19

WESTFIELD — State Sen. and Mrs. Don Humason will host a free ice-skating event from 5 to 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 19, at Amelia Park Arena, 21 S. Broad St., Westfield. Residents are invited to bring their family, visit with Humason and his family, have some refreshments, and skate admission-free courtesy of Humason. Ice skate rentals will be available for \$3 per person.

In the spirit of the season, guests are asked to bring one canned good or non-perishable item to be donated to Kate's Kitchen in Holyoke to help those in need this winter.

For more information about the event or possible sponsorship opportunities, call 413-568-3390.

'Sounds of the Season' concert at St. John's

The Agawam Concert Band & Choir, and the Alice Moore Golden Bell Choir of the Agawam Congregational Church are presenting a "Sounds of the Season" concert Sunday, Dec. 20.

The concert begins at 7 p.m. at St. John

the Evangelist Church Hall, 833 Main St., Agawam. Tickets are \$5 for adults, \$3 for ages 13 to 18 and free for children 12 and under. They will be available at the door or may be purchased in advance by calling 413-530-9779.

Colleen applications due Monday

Applications for the 2016 Agawam St. Patrick's Colleen are now available. The Colleen and her court will participate in activities throughout the "Irish season," culminating in the Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 29.

Applicants must be aged 17-22 on March 17, 2016; be single and have no children; claim Irish ancestry; have an interest in continuing her education; and be a resident of Agawam or Feeding Hills.

Applications are due Dec. 21. Applications are available at Agawam High School, 750 Cooper St.; Agawam Public Library, 760 Cooper St.; Agawam Town Hall, 36 Main Street; Cooper's Gifts, 161 Main St., Agawam; St. Mary's High School, 27 Bartlett St., Westfield; Cathedral High School, 310 Main St., Wilbraham; and Holyoke Catholic High School, 134 Springfield St., Chicopee. The Colleen pageant will take place Feb. 14 at Chez Josef in Agawam.



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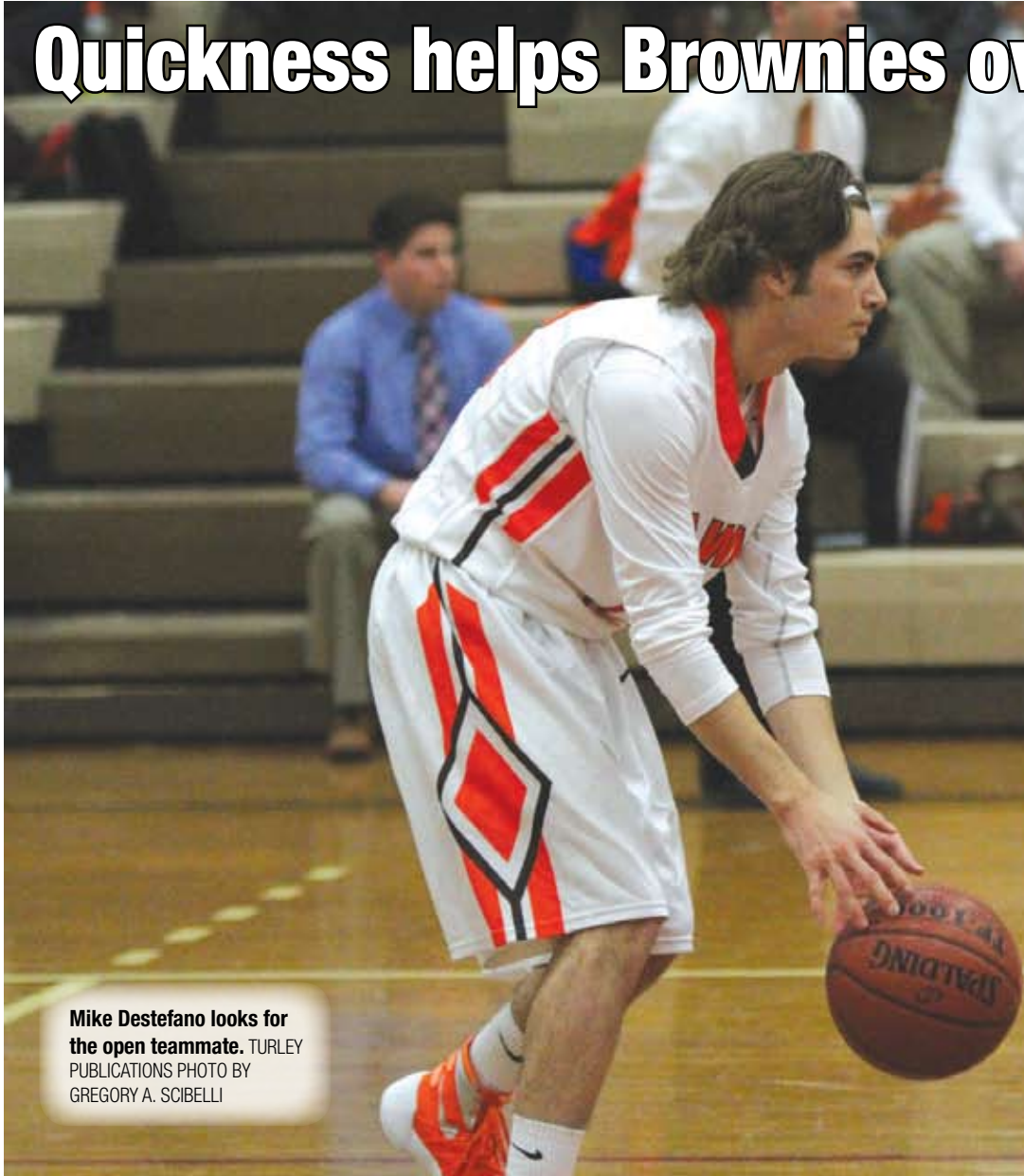
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SPORTS

BOYS BASKETBALL

Quickness helps Brownies overcome Red Raiders



By Gregory A. Scibelli
Turley Publications Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM – The Agawam boys basketball team is still putting a young product on the floor, but those underclassmen are speedy and helped Agawam squeak out a 67-65 victory over the High School of Commerce last Friday night.

While it came down to a late free throw from sophomore Myles Scott, Agawam did have a pretty good start to the second half and did hold a lead for most of the half.

But Commerce did come back during the fourth quarter, and the score was tied 65-65 with just seconds remaining.

Scott was fouled with only 8 seconds left, and was able to sink both free throws, ending a pretty frustrating night at the free-throw line for a few of the Agawam shooters. Commerce had an opportunity to tie the score after that, but was unsuccessful.

The early part of the game showed signs of rust for both sides. Agawam and Commerce would both make a lot of sloppy plays in the first quarter, and Agawam let a strong lead slide down to just four points after one

quarter.

Commerce continued to nip away, with Raul Lopez and Julius McKinstry both coming up with some key baskets early in the second, but the Brownies finally broke out mid-way through the second quarter, taking a 31-17 lead.

Sean Moore would hit a layup with 3:10 remaining to extend Agawam's lead to 33-17.

Commerce then made a move with time waning in the second, scoring three straight baskets to make the score 33-23.

Meesha Ohradka got a pair of free throws to get Agawam back up by 12, but Commerce out-scored the Brownies 6-2 in the final minutes to trail 37-31 at the end of the first half.

The Brownies kept their distance early in the second half, but slowly, the Red Raiders would come back. Scott and Jon Leclair would both score to give Agawam a five-point lead, but Commerce nailed a couple shot to close the gap again.

Then Joe Moccio hit a trey to put Agawam up by six. Moore nailed a layup at the end of the third to extend Agawam's lead to eight points 55-47.

BASKETBALL | page 13

Mike Destefano looks for the open teammate. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

HOCKEY

Brownies rally to topple Bombers

Agawam scores three unanswered goals to beat Westfield

By Gregory A. Scibelli
Turley Publications Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM – The Agawam hockey team had a taste of the big time last year when they traveled to the TD Garden in Boston to participate in the Division 3 State Championship game, coming up short on the home ice of the Boston Bruins.

But with a number of their top scorers graduated, the Brownies took the ice with a little less experience this season.

That led to a loss in their opening game. But Agawam put things back together in the second period of their next game, and came from behind to beat rival Westfield 3-2 last Saturday night at Olympia Ice Center in West Springfield.

The Brownies had been shut down for the 30 minutes of the game, and fell behind 2-0 against

HOCKEY | page 14



ABOVE: Anthony Passerini goes for the shot.

LEFT: Agawam players get mixed up against the board with a loose puck nearby. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

WRESTLING

Brownies hold down two opponents

By Gregory A. Scibelli
Turley Publications Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM – The Agawam wrestling team won two out of three dual meets last Saturday at Putnam, opening up the regular season on a positive note.

Agawam lost to rival Chicopee, but picked up wins against Essex and later defeated Gateway.

The Brownies defeated Essex in a close meet 48-36, pulling out the matchup by just a couple of match wins. Those wins for

Agawam came on forfeits, as the Brownies finished with five of them.

Kyle Ma suffered a third period pin, losing to Ben Stewart with about a 1:00 left in the match.

Agawam's first win of the meet came at 126 pounds as Dominic Ledoux defeated Calvin Powell in 3:02. Ledoux grabbed a take-down and then a nearfall. Powell also scored five points in the first period, getting a reversal and a nearfall.

WRESTLING | page 14

FOOTBALL

More changes to Super Bowl format

By Dave Forbes
Turley Publications Sports Staff Writer

When the 2016 high school football season starts next September, there could be some very big changes going on with the football playoff landscape.

The most obvious one is that there will be eight state championships, with Divisions 1, 1A, 2, 2A, 3, 3A, 4 and 4A, but there will not be eight divisions out in Western Massachusetts. Instead, this region will be split up in to four divisions, which will be 2, 3, 4 and 4A.

The divisions are split up

across the state based on the male student population at each of the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association member schools, with the largest populations being placed in Division 1 and the smallest being placed in Division 4A.

The actual enrollment of the school and the Alignment Enrollment numbers. In the formula used by the MIAA, a multiplier of 1.3 was used for private schools (such as St. Joseph Central in Pittsfield), 0.8 for comprehensive schools

SUPER BOWL | page 14

Sports



Joe Moccio tries to break through thanks to a block from teammate Sean Moore. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Myles Scott tries to drive for the basket under pressure.

BASKETBALL ■ from page 12

But Agawam would not hold the lead with Commerce outscoring Agawam during the majority of the fourth. Thankfully, the Brownies were able to hold on for the win, making them 1-0 this season.

Coach Dave Federico said he believed the team needed the win to start the year.

“All wins are important, but wins against quality opponents are even better,” said Federico. “We wanted to set the tone early this season and hopefully this propels us.”

He said his players stepped up, including the bench when starters got in foul trouble.

Moccio led Agawam with 21 points. Moore had 16 points, and Scott had 12.

Agawam was scheduled to play East Longmeadow at home Monday night, but a power outage suspended the game.

The Brownies will play on Tuesday at home against Westfield at 7 p.m.

Wreaths for veterans



AGAWAM - The Agawam High School varsity hockey players performed community service by placing holiday wreaths at the grave of a veteran at the Veterans Cemetery as part of Wreaths Across America. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS SUBMITTED PHOTO

Litz Alumni Game set for Dec. 30

AGAWAM - The ninth annual Brian Litz Memorial Alumni Game will be played on Wednesday, Dec 30 at the Agawam High School gymnasium.

The doors will open at 5:30 p.m.

There will be two games this year. At 6 p.m. various alumni from all years will play against each other, then at 7:15 p.m. this year’s varsity squad will play against an alumni team consisting of past Brian Litz Scholarship Winners, coaches, and Brian’s teammates from high school.

As always there is no cost for admission to the games. If you would like to make a donation at the door, all proceeds go to the Brian Litz Memorial Scholarship Fund which awards scholarships and helps out the AHS Basketball Program.

The scholarships awarded each year are voted on by the team. They choose the players that they feel best represents what Brian Litz stood for - being a great teammate, giving 100 percent effort, and always having a positive attitude.

Please help spread the word about the alumni game to help out this worthy cause. If you cannot make the game and would like to donate, checks can be made payable to: Agawam Boys Booster Club c/o Brian Litz Fund, and mailed to 40 Denise Lane, Feeding Hills, MA 01030.

We look forward to seeing everyone on Dec. 30. Happy holidays from all of us associated with the Scholarship Fund.

Agawam High School athletics to induct first Hall of Fame class

AGAWAM - The Agawam High School Athletic Department is proud and excited to announce the induction of the inaugural class of The Agawam High School Athletic Hall of Fame. AHS has a long and proud history which encompasses many sports.

The AHS Athletic Hall of Fame Committee was formed earlier this year to recognize and honor those who have made a significant athletic contribution to Agawam High School. The Hall of Fame Committee is looking forward to a community effort to help make the A.H.S. Athletic Hall of Fame a tribute to the athletes, coaches, teams and contributors who have given so much to the high school and to the Town of Agawam through sport. The presentation of the first Hall of Fame class will be held at the Agawam High School on Sunday, Oct. 16, 2016. Details will follow.

Effective immediately, The Agawam High Ath-

letic Hall of Fame Committee will be accepting completed nomination packets for athletes, teams and contributors who have distinguished themselves in athletics at Agawam High School as well as in their college and professional lives.

Nomination form directions must be followed exactly with all necessary information included. Incomplete nomination forms will not be accepted, so please be as accurate and complete as possible. Nomination forms are due on or before April 1, 2016, to be considered for induction into the AHS Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2016.

Nomination packets are available at the Agawam High School Athletic Department Office and on line at: http://www.agawampublicschools.org/pages/Agawam_PS/Athletics/Athletics.

Ski, hockey tickets available at Park & Rec

AGAWAM — The Parks & Recreation Winter Brochure is now available online at www.agawam.ma.us.

Discounted Ski Blandford tickets are available for \$25 each and can be used any day that the mountain is open for skiing during the 2015-16 season. Tickets will be available at the Parks & Recreation Department, 1000 Suffield St., beginning Monday, Dec.14. Call 413-821-0514 for more information.

Discounted Springfield Falcons tickets may be purchased for \$15 each at the Agawam Park & Recreation Department. The vouchers can be exchanged at the Falcons box office at any time for any Falcons home game. Call 413-821-0514 for more information.

These tickets make great Christmas presents and/or stocking stuffers.

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Sports



Brett Fila tries to keep possession with an East Longmeadow defender pressuring. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

HOCKEY ■ from page 12

the Bombers, a team they have been in a rivalry with since returning to the Berry Division.

Westfield had peppered Agawam's goal early in the period and finally broke through when Don Ingham got a quick shot on a wrister and put the Brownies on the board down 2-1.

That Ingham goal was just what Agawam needed to get going, and the offense started to create more opportunities. Agawam would score again to tie the game less than a minute after Ingham's goal when Cam Croteau and Brett Fila combined to tally.

Croteau fed Fila a pass and Fil found the low left side of the net.

Tied 2-2, Agawam had a renewed momentum, and their defense carried that into the third period, when Anthony Passerini, who had an excellent freshman year for Agawam, passed away to Preston Kozub and the junior scored the eventual game winner to give the Brownies their first win of the regular season.

Goalie Connor McAnanama made 28 saves in the victory. Like last year, Agawam got goals from three different players in the

win.

Last Thursday night, the Brownies got out to a tough start in their first action of the year. East Longmeadow jumped out to a 1-0 lead less than a minute into the game and then carried a 3-1 lead after two periods en route to a 4-2 win at Olympia Ice Center.

There was definitely some first-game jitters for several Agawam players as the defense broke down a bit early on and East Longmeadow scored 37 seconds into the game.

Agawam was able to come back with a goal in the second and came within a goal early in the third period, but the Spartans managed an insurance goal late in the game to pull away.

Ingham and John Passerini scored the goals for Agawam and McAnanama made 20 saves in the defeat.

At 1-1, Agawam will next play Ludlow at 3:10 p.m. Saturday.

Gregory A. Scibelli is a sports correspondent for Turley Publications. He can be reached at gscibelli@turley.com.

NEYSA, Inc. of Western Mass launches new website

New England Youth Sports Association Inc. (NEYSA) of Western Massachusetts is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing a positive experience for young ladies ages 6 to 18 interested in learning and playing Girls Fast-Pitch Softball.

NEYSA accomplished this by creating a

safe and fun environment in which to play the game.

The league is open to players from all communities in the Greater Springfield area.

For more information please visit our new website at www.neysainc.org.

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WRESTLING ■ from page 12

But Ledoux had the advantage in the second and scored the pinfall about a minute later.

Newcomer Eathan Brooks had a pinfall victory, scoring a takedown and then scoring the pin about a minute and a half into the match. At 195 pounds, Spencer Kozlak defeated Brandon McCormick in the second round.

Against Chicopee, the Brownies had another tough matchup with the Pacers, who feature some very talented wrestlers at certain weight classes.

Ledoux, though, had a win at 126 pounds as he defeated Stephen Davis with a second round pinfall. Davis would start with the advantage in the matchup, getting a takedown and a nearfall. But Ledoux got the reversal and eventually picked up the win.

Daigan Bishop scored a win at 138 pounds. He got his first pinfall of the season when he defeated Brian Ortega in the first period. Bishop scored the early takedown

and needed some time before getting both of Ortega's shoulders down for the count.

Troy Carroll picked up his first win of the season when he defeated Joe Morales in the 152-pound match.

Morales had a takedown as the only score in the first period. He then took the down position and scored a reversal to go up 4-0. But Carroll would reverse it and score the pin with 33 seconds left in the second period.

Kozlak had an easy first match of his day with a takedown and pin in 25 seconds at 195 pounds.

Agawam's final win of the day came at the heavyweight match, when Tavon Brooks scored a first-round pin against Jose Morales. It was Brooks first varsity win, coming at 1:42.

Agawam faced Putnam Wednesday, and is now off until hosting the Phil Tomkiel Holiday Tournament on Dec. 29 beginning at 10 a.m.

SUPER BOWL ■ from page 12

(such as Chicopee Comp) and 0.3 for vocational schools (such as Pathfinder).

Here are the proposed new divisions:

Division 2: Central, Putnam (co-op with Sci-Tech), Commerce (co-op with Renaissance), Holyoke, Agawam, Chicopee Comp, West Springfield, Minnechaug, Westfield and Amherst.

Division 3: Longmeadow, Chicopee, Ludlow, Northampton, Easthampton (co-op with Hampshire), East Longmeadow, Pittsfield, Monument Mountain (co-op with Mt. Everett), Belchertown and Taconic.

Division 4: Mahar, South Hadley, Wahconah, Lee (co-op with Lenox), Athol, Drury (co-op with St. Joseph Central), Hoosac Valley, Frontier and Greenfield.

Division 4A: Mt. Greylock, Palmer, Monson, Mohawk, Ware, Smith Voke, Pioneer Valley Regional, Turners Falls, Pathfinder, Franklin Tech, McCann Tech and Dean Tech.

There may be a slight problem with the math when it comes to Division 4A, though, as Palmer and Monson are listed separately as having football programs, but the two actually had a co-op this season. With Palmer's male population of 175 and Monson's 155 totaling 330, the Panthers Alignment Enrollment number would be 330, which would be higher than Taconic (290), the lowest number in Division 3.

Schools will have the opportunity to appeal their placement before these proposed new divisions become official. The MIAA Football Committee is scheduled to have their final meeting on the subject in February of next year.

Dave Forbes is a sports editor for Turley Publications. He can be reached at dforbes@turley.com or by calling 413-283-8393 ext. 237.

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AGAWAM Advertiser News

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Out & About

OUR CALENDAR SECTION is intended to promote free events, or those that directly affect a volunteer-driven organization. Paid events that are not deemed benefits do not qualify. Non-charitable events that charge the public for profit are not allowed as we consider that paid advertising. The deadline to submit calendar items is Monday at noon. Send to the Agawam Advertiser News at aan@turley.com, fax to 413-786-8457, or mail to 23 Southwick St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030. We usually print at least one week prior to an event. The listings should be brief with only time, date, location, activity explanation and contact information.

Friday, Dec. 18

THE MASSACHUSETTS DIVISION OF FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE habitat site walk at the Southwick Wildlife Management Area from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Participants to meet at the Wildlife Management Area parking area on the south side of South Longyard Road, just east of the intersection with Liquori Drive in Southwick, at 10 a.m. Wear sturdy boots and dress for cold weather.

Saturday, Dec. 19

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CONCERT at Second Baptist Church, 11 N. Main St., Suffield, 3 p.m. A reception of light refreshments in the church's Fellowship Hall follows. Free will offering collected to benefit Suffield Emergency Aid Association Fuel Bank.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA at St. David's Episcopal Church, 699 Springfield St., Feeding Hills, from 9 to 11 a.m. Free of charge with canned good for Open Pantry. Reservations required. Call 413-786-6133. Bring your own camera.

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE at St. David's Episcopal Church, 699 Springfield St., Feeding Hills. Open to anyone feeling blue during the holidays for any reason.

Sunday, Dec. 20

CHRISTMAS CAROLING ON THE GREEN at 689 Main St., Agawam at 4:30 p.m., hosted by the Agawam Clergy Assoc. Lighting of the Christmas tree, singing of Christmas carols followed by hot chocolate and cookies. In the event of inclement weather, it will take place in the Agawam Congregational Church hall at 745 Main St.

THE AGAWAM CONCERT BAND & CHOIR and the Alice Moore Golden Bell Choir of the Agawam Congregational Church are presenting a "Sounds of the Season" concert at 7 p.m. at St. John the Evangelist Church Hall, 833 Main St., Agawam. Tickets available at the door or may be purchased in advance by calling 413-530-9779.

SING WITH THE ANGELS Christmas concert, 3:30 p.m. at the Gothic Sanctuary of Trinity Methodist Church,

361 Sumner Ave., Springfield, performed by the Trinity Chamber singers, Chamberettes and Handbell Choir. Free. Reception of cookies and punch to follow.

Thursday, Dec. 24

AGAWAM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, 745 Main St., will host a family candlelight service at 5 p.m. and a traditional candlelight service at 11 p.m. All are invited.

Tuesday, Jan 5

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION WORKSHOP from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Suffield Middle School auditorium, 350 Mountain Road. Guest speaker will be Tom Hennick, public information officer for the Freedom of Information Commission. Open to all board and commission members, town employees and the general public.

Friday, Jan. 8

THE ACC APPLAUSE SERIES starts the new year with a presentation of local phenomena by Agawam Paranormal at 7 p.m. at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St. Free and open to the public. For more information on Applause, visit www.agawamcc.org.

SECOND ANNUAL SCOUTING ALUMNI REUNION hosted by the Boy and Girl Scout units of Southwick, Granville and Tolland 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. All former Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Venturers, Explorers, Scouters and other adult volunteers are invited. RSVP by emailing alumni@wmascouting.org or calling Alicia Garcia at 413-594-9196, ext. 7031. There is no cost to attend, and guests are invited to bring Scouting memorabilia or pictures to share.

Sunday, Jan. 10

THE WEST SPRINGFIELD COIN CLUB will meet at 7 p.m. in the Church of the Good Shepherd, 214 Elm St., West Springfield. A special coin topic to be presented and discussed. Refreshments available. Guests welcome. For more information, call Peter Setian at 413-596-9871.

Wednesday, Jan. 13

THE ELM-BELCHER MASONIC LODGE, 53 River St., Agawam, offers an all-you-can-eat spaghetti supper at a cost of \$8 for adults, \$4 for children. The public is welcome.

Tuesday, Feb. 2

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST TUESDAY MORNING MUSIC CONCERT, 361 Sumner Ave., Springfield, will feature the Devine-Nix Duo at 10:30 a.m. Reception to follow. For more information, call Yolanda Martin at 413-736-0766 or email irgo9654@aol.com.

Friday, Feb. 12

DAN JONES, EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES column "Modern Love," will share his stories and read from his books at 10:10 a.m. the 11:15 a.m. at Scibelli Hall at STCC as part of its free Ovations series. For more information, call 413-755-4233 or email pcodonoghue@stcc.edu.

ONGOING

GRANDPARENT'S PLAYGROUP Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m., at St. David's Church, 699 Springfield St., Feeding Hills. This free infant and toddler playgroup features music and movement, fostering children's interactions and sharing skills. Open to all grandparents and their grandchildren. Follows school schedule.

MOM 2 MOM takes place the second Tuesday of every month October through June, 9:30 to 11 a.m. at Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main St. A roundtable discussion hosted by a local "veteran" mom, this is a great way to have further conversation on recent café themes and parent education events, celebrate parenting and receive encouragement for the trials.

THE AGAWAM ST. PATRICK COMMITTEE meets the third Wednesday of each month, September through June, at 6:30 p.m. at St. John the Evangelist Rectory conference room, 833 Main St., Agawam. For information on how to join, call Vera Conway at 413-786-3247 or email Rosemary Sandline at rosemarysandlin@gmail.com

ADULT DROP-IN SIT AND KNIT meets every Tuesday from 1-3 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St. No registration needed.

AGAWAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 459 Mill St., Agawam, offers "Crochet Club" every other Tuesday from 7 to 8:30 p.m. This club is open to all needleworkers, including crocheters, knitters, quilters, and embroiderers. For more information, call 413-786-7991.

THE LADIES GLEE CLUB AND MEN'S CHOIR at the Springfield Turnverein, 60 North Westfield St., Feeding Hills, are back to work. Practice is held every Wednesday with the ladies beginning at 7 p.m. followed by the men at 8:30 p.m. All are welcome. There is space available for anyone interested in joining.

A BREAST CANCER AND MASTECTOMY SUPPORT GROUP meets the fourth Tuesday of each month from 6 to 7:15 p.m. at 2 South Bridge Drive, Suite 1B, Agawam. Registration is required by calling 413-789-0200 or online at www.survivorjourneys.org.

AN ALL CANCER SUPPORT GROUP meets the first Tuesday of each month from 6 to 7 p.m. at Sacred Heart Parish Center, 1061 Springfield St., Feeding Hills. Registration is required by calling 413-789-0200 or online at www.survivorjourneys.org.

A BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP meets the second Wednesday of each month at Heritage Woods Assisted Facility, 462 Main St., Agawam. Registration is required by calling 413-789-0200 or online at www.survivorjourneys.org.

YOUR CAR, TRUCK OR CAMPER may be worth more as a donation than a trade-in. Call the Massachusetts Association for the Blind at 888-613-2777 for more information. Towing is free. All donations are tax deductible.

Agawam Senior Center

Lunch Menu

Monday, Dec. 21: Beef vegetable noodle soup, hot turkey sandwich with tomato and Swiss cheese on whole wheat, baked good.

Tuesday, Dec. 22: Lemon pepper chicken, au gratin potatoes, carrots, mixed fruit.

Wednesday, Dec. 23: Meatloaf, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, Jell-O.

Thursday, Dec. 24: Meals on Wheels only (early delivery) - French toast, turkey bacon, muffins, cantaloupe, orange juice.

Friday, Dec. 25: Merry Christmas. Senior Center closed.

Calendar of Events

Monday, Dec. 21: 8 a.m., weight training; 8:15 a.m., yoga; 9 a.m., Painting Club; 9:30 a.m., line dancing; 11:30 a.m., Gentle Yoga; 1 p.m., bingo; 5:30 p.m., Zumba Gold.

Tuesday, Dec. 22: 9 a.m., no exercise, knitting class, sewing class; 12:30 p.m., mah jongg; 1 p.m., Mexican Train Game; 3 p.m., COA meeting; 4:30 p.m., yoga; 6 p.m., beginner line dance.

Wednesday, Dec. 23: 8 a.m., weight training; 8:15 a.m., yoga; 9:45 a.m., Gentle Yoga; 12:30 p.m., bridge; 1 p.m., Scrabble; 1:30 p.m., Golden Agers Chapter 1 (no meeting at center; banquet); 5:30 p.m., Zumba Gold.

Thursday, Dec. 24: Meals on Wheels only. Senior Center closes at noon. No lunch.

Friday, Dec. 25: Merry Christmas. Senior Center closed.

Legals

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD15P2340EA
Estate of: Judith E. Powell
Date of Death: 08/18/2014
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **James H. Powell** of Westfield MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **James H. Powell** of Westfield MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **an unsupervised** administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 01/05/2016.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written

appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Anne M Geoffrion**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: December 08, 2015
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD15P2362PM
In the matter of:
Normand Labrie
Of: Agawam, MA**

**RESPONDENT
(Person to be Protected/
Minor)
CITATION GIVING
NOTICE OF PETITION
FOR APPOINTMENT
OF CONSERVATOR OR
OTHER PROTECTIVE
ORDER PURSUANT TO
G.L. c. 190B,
§5-304 & §5-405**

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Herbert Rosenberg** of Feeding Hills, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that **Normand Labrie** is in need of a Conservator or other protective order and requesting that (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Conservator to serve With Surety on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is disabled, that a protective order or appointment of a Conservator is necessary, and that the proposed conservator is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 a.m. on the return date of 12/28/2015. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in

this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

Witness, Hon. **Anne M Geoffrion**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: December 11, 2015
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate

12/17/15

HOW TO SUBMIT LEGAL NOTICES

All legal notices to be published in the *Agawam Advertiser News* should be sent directly to klanier@turley.com. Karen Lanier processes all legals for this newspaper and can answer all of your questions regarding these notices. Please indicate the newspapers and publication date(s) for the notice(s) in the subject line of your email. For questions regarding coverage area, procedures or cost, please call Karen directly at 413-283-8393 x271.

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sion by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
12/17/15

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

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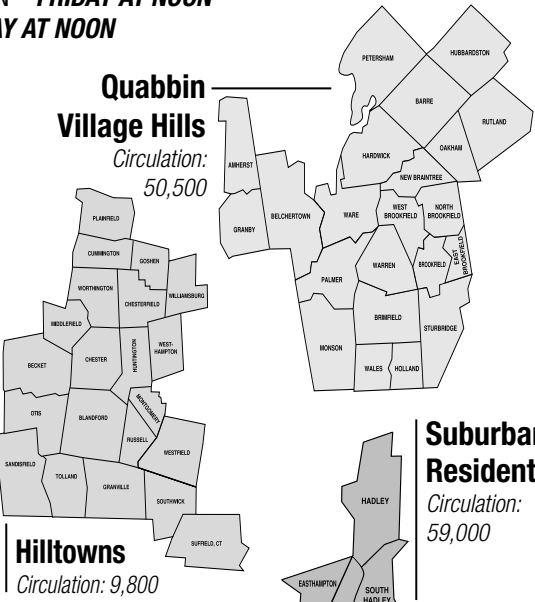
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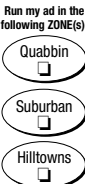
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Our Town

T's Jewelers moves to new location

T's Jewelers, formerly on Springfield Street in Feeding Hills, has moved to a new location two miles away in an art studio in Feeding Hills. Owner Zin G. Tokman moved to Agawam in 1981 from Kiev, Ukraine. A graduate of the Academy of Fine Arts in Kiev, he became a certified master jeweler and engraver.

In the United States, he graduated from the Gemological Institute of America and in 1995, became a certified gemologist.

Customers at the new location will be seen by appointment only. To make an appointment, call 413-789-2603.



Zin G. Tokman, owner of T's Jewelers. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Trees for all



The Festival of Trees in Springfield, held on the day after Thanksgiving, is a fundraiser for the Boys and Girls Club of Springfield. Visitors can buy tickets to drop into a box for their choice of tree that they would like to win. There were 137 sponsors this year, including the Agawam Junior Women's Club tree, pictured here. Those attending could vote on the Children's Favorite Tree, the Most Original and the Most Beautiful. SUBMITTED PHOTO BY GERALDINE SCHILLING-NORDAL

Future leader



At a recent meeting of the GFWC Agawam Junior Women's Club, Agawam resident Melanie Ortiz, left, spoke to club members about the positive experience she had in the Mass. Star Leadership program. With Ortiz is club president Samantha Rudd. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Barrows graduates from basic training

U.S. Army Pvt. Daniel E. Barrows, a 2015 graduate of Agawam High School, has graduated from basic infantry training at Fort Jackson, S.C.

During the nine weeks of training, the soldier studied the Army mission, history, tradition and core values, and physical fitness. He also received instruction and practice in basic combat skills, military weapons, chemical warfare and bayonet training, drill and ceremony, marching, rifle marksmanship, armed and unarmed combat, map reading, field tactics, military courtesy, military justice system, basic first aid, foot marches and field training exercises.

Barrows is the son of Sandra E. Barrows of Ludlow. He is the brother of Joshua K. Barrows and Jacob G. Barrows.



Pvt. Daniel Barrows

Former editor hired at Pope Francis High School

CHICOPEE — Pope Francis High School announced this week that Jennifer Lopez of Ludlow has been appointed as the first director of marketing and communications for the new school.

Lopez, the former Jennifer Wroblewski, is the former editor of the Agawam Advertiser News and most recently worked in marketing at Market Mentors in West Springfield. A graduate of Lowell Catholic High School in Lowell, Mass., Lopez holds a bachelor of arts in English from Western New England University. She is a member of the Valley Press Club Board of Directors.



Jennifer Lopez

"We are fortunate to have Jennifer join our staff, as she brings with her not only the benefit of her local media and marketing experience, but also first-hand knowledge of the advantages of a Catholic education," said Kevin White, chief advancement officer for Pope Francis High School. "Jennifer possesses the enthusiasm and commitment we need to develop a long-term marketing strategy for the new school, and we are excited to welcome her aboard."

Pope Francis High School will be the name of the combined diocesan high school to be built the former Cathedral High School site in Springfield, incorporating both Cathedral and Holyoke Catholic High School. While the official merger will take place to coincide with the next academic year, 2016-17, there has already been a joining together of the athletic programs and the creation of a joint development and marketing team, in which Lopez will now play an important role. The school is expected to open on the campus of Holyoke Catholic in Chicopee for a year before construction is complete in Springfield.

For more information about Pope Francis High School, visit popefrancishigh.org.

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Union Station – Northampton's Union Station was designed by American architect H. H. Richardson in 1886. This historic train depot has been extensively renovated to contain one of the most elegant and unique banquet facilities in all of New England. The Grand Ballroom at Union Station. www.unionstationbanquets.com.

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Silverscape Designs – was founded by Denis Perlman over 30 years ago and is noted for its commitment to showcasing the work of the finest in American handcrafted jewelry & gifts. Silverscape also specializes in custom designs for that perfect piece of jewelry. Silverscape Designs is located at One King Street in Northampton, MA. www.silverscapedesigns.com.

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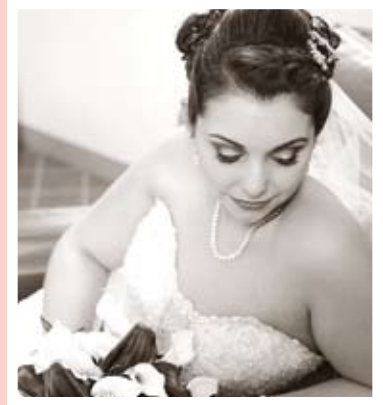
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Photos by Karen Geaghan Photography



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